

**STATEMENT
OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF KOREA**

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The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on July 15 a statement strongly demanding the Japanese government to take pertinent measures immediately for early realization of the just demand and aspiration of the Korean citizens in Japan for freedom to visit their fatherland. Below is the full text of the statement.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which regards it as its duty to protect the democratic, national rights of its citizens abroad makes the following statement in connection with the fact that of late the movement of Korean citizens in Japan is being unfolded extensively in various parts of Japan to realize the freedom of travel to and from their fatherland.

At present, more than 600,000 Korean citizens reside in Japan. But up to this date 18 years after the August 15 Liberation, none of them have ever been able to visit their fatherland, their freedom of travel to and from their fatherland and abroad having been constantly suppressed.

As is well known, the Korean citizens in Japan have ceaselessly endeavoured to materialize their travel to and from the fatherland ever since U.S. imperialism occupied Japan and South Korea and split Korea and thus severed their contact with the fatherland.

Such endeavour on the part of the Korean citizens in Japan has not been able to bring any positive result owing to the unfriendly attitude of the Japanese ruling circles, and they are in an inconvenient situation still today as if detained in the Japanese territory.

Unable to tolerate this position any longer, the Korean citizens in Japan have recently come out at last to launch the mass

movement to realize the urgent demand in their life, and the movement is expanding as the days go by.

Since last May, the Korean citizens in Japan have continuously held mass rallies and meetings in Tokyo and various other parts of Japan, demanding the Japanese government to ensure the realization of their earnest desire for free travel to their fatherland and appealing to the Japanese people and the peoples of all countries of the world to support their just struggle.

Various political parties, social organizations and the broad segments of the public in Japan have given active support and encouragement to the just demand of Korean citizens in Japan, and many local councils of Japan have already adopted resolutions demanding the Japanese government to immediately permit the Korean citizens in Japan to travel to and from their fatherland.

Ever-broader public opinion of the world, too, is coming out with their support to the lawful demand of the Korean citizens in Japan.

The Japanese government, however, is still unjustifiably rejecting the just demand of the Korean citizens in Japan for the travel between Japan and their fatherland.

Such act of the Japanese government can never be tolerated.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considers that the

demand of the Korean citizens in Japan for a free visit to their fatherland is fully justified and that the Japanese government assumes the legal and moral responsibility for ensuring it.

The Korean citizens in Japan are full-fledged citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is a principle recognized by international law that overseas citizens of an independent country have the freedom of travel to and from their fatherland and foreign countries according to the needs of life.

Today all countries of the world carry out this principle of international law.

In fact, the Japanese government, too, allows at present all foreign residents in Japan, except the Korean citizens with the nationality of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to travel outside Japan freely irrespective of diplomatic relations.

There is no ground whatsoever for the Japanese government to suppress only the freedom of the Korean citizens in Japan to visit their fatherland.

Furthermore, in the light of the historical status of the Korean citizens in Japan, the Japanese government should assume the inescapable obligation to ensure the urgent demand in their life.

The Korean citizens who live in Japan today did not go there of their own accord.

The Korean citizens in Japan are those who were dragged away to Japan for conscription or for labour draft by the Japanese imperialist colonial rulers or who roamed across to Japan having been compelled to leave their native places after losing the means of living due to the harsh colonial rule of Japanese imperialism in the past.

Working those Koreans they had forcibly taken away like cattle, the Japanese imperialists exploited and plundered them without limit, subjected them to all sorts of national humiliation and maltreatment, and repressed and massacred them ruthlessly.

Indescribable are all the sacrifices, pains and misfortunes the Korean citizens in Japan had suffered under the cruel oppression by Japanese imperialism for tens of years.

The Korean citizens who remain in Japan today are none other than those who had barely survived such vicious national hu-

miliation and maltreatment by Japanese imperialism.

If the Japanese government is really sensible of its responsibility for all the crimes committed by Japanese imperialism in the past and wishes to be faithful to the principles of international law, then it ought to atone for everything it had done to the Korean citizens in Japan in the past and ensure them, too, every legal treatment due to foreigners so long as they stay in Japan.

Nevertheless, the Japanese government did not do so, but, on the contrary, kept the Korean citizens in Japan outside legal protection and has continually subjected and is still subjecting them to national humiliation, suppression and all kinds of discrimination.

It is another typical example of such discrimination that the Japanese government grants the freedom of travel abroad to all other foreign residents in Japan, whereas it restrains only the Korean citizens in Japan from enjoying such freedom.

For the Korean citizens in Japan who have already undergone hardships in an alien land away from their fatherland for scores of years, it is natural to wish to visit the beloved land of their ancestors and meet their parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends.

Today when some eighty thousand Korean citizens have already returned from Japan to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through nearly four years of repatriation work for the Korean citizens in Japan, it is quite natural, too, that their families, relatives and friends who still remain in Japan owing to unavoidable circumstances wish to meet their kinsmen who have returned to the fatherland.

Nevertheless, the Japanese government has not yet granted the Korean citizens in Japan the freedom to visit their homeland —this cannot but be regarded as a deliberate act proceeding from its consistently unfriendly attitude to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Japanese government carries out such a discriminatory policy in an endeavour to make capital of it in the political bargaining with the South Korean military fascist clique at the "ROK-Japan talks" which are being held at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists.

The discriminatory policy of the Japanese government toward the Korean citizens in Japan is entirely illegal.

Under no pretext can the Japanese government evade the legal and moral responsibility for guaranteeing all the democratic, national rights of the Korean citizens in Japan including the freedom of visit to their homeland.

Pyongyang, July 15, 1963.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea strongly demands that the Japanese government take appropriate measures immediately for the realization at the earliest possible date of the just demand and desire of the Korean citizens in Japan for the freedom to visit their fatherland.